

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Murchison River Snails.**—The R.A.O.U. camp held at the mouth of the Murchison River in 1948 has stimulated three articles in the *W.A. Naturalist* since the original report appeared in *The Emu*, vol. 48, 1949, p. 212, so, in an endeavour to make the published results of the survey even more complete, I place on record the following observations:

Two species of land molluses were collected near the camp site. These were identified by Mr. L. Glauert as *Bothriembryon costulatus* (type locality, Sharks Bay) and *B. minor* (type locality, Dirk Hartog Island).

Dead shells of *Bothriembryon* were in evidence at Red Bluff, four miles to the south of the river, and a number of live shells were found by uprooting small shrubs and searching among the roots. These were identified as *B. costulatus*.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

**Introduced Land Snails at Esperance.**—Further to the various reports on this topic (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, pp. 38, 119 and 167), I have the following additional information.

*Helix pisana*, though occurring plentifully in the Esperance area to a distance of over a mile inland from the sea, is totally absent from the islands of the Recherche Archipelago. On the mainland it occurs in conjunction with a local species of *Bothriembryon*. It will be interesting to witness the effects of competition between the two species.

Also found at Esperance was the Dune Snail, *Cochlicella acuta*. This was found only in one garden, that of Mr. E. Paton. The species had the same habit as in *Helix pisana* of clustering on the top of fence posts or sticks. Several thousand individuals were present. At the time (February 28, 1951) the conditions were fairly humid with some showers and many of the snails were active. However, Mr. Paton informed me that they were not a very serious pest as far as gardening was concerned.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.

**Young Butcher-bird with Giant Moth.**—At Point Peron on January 27, 1951, the behaviour of a young Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*) in its endeavour to dismember a giant moth came under the notice of Mr. Eric Schmidt and myself. We did not know if the huge insect had been brought to the young bird by one of its parents, both of which were about, or if it had made the capture itself. Our interest centred in the method by which it was attempting to pull it to pieces.

It was attacking the problem on a sloping platform of tangled branches at the edge of the scrub, and the procedure was to wedge the insect in a fork or other suitable place, and then pull at the